

1898

# Minutes of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

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※ MINUTES ※

— OF THE —

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Mississippi Woman  
Suffrage Association.

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※ ※ ※ Skinner's Hall ※ ※ ※

GREENVILLE, \* MISSISSIPPI.

March 29-30, 1898.

OFFICERS OF THE  
.. National American Woman Suffrage ..  
Association.

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Honorary President

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON

26 West 61st Street

New York City.

President

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

17 Madison Street

Rochester, N. Y.

Vice President at Large

REV. ANNA H. SHAW

1830 Diamond Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

Corresponding Secretary

RACHEL FOSTER AVERY

119 North 19th Street

Philadelphia, Pa.

Recording Secretary

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL

3 Park Street

Boston, Mass.

Treasurer

HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON

Warren,

Ohio.

Auditors

CATHERINE WAUGH McCULLOCH

The Rookery

Chicago, Ills.

LAURA CLAY

Lexington

Kentucky.

Chairman Committee on Organization

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT

107 World Building

New York City.



OFFICERS OF THE  
Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association.

President  
MRS. NELLIE N. SOMERVILLE  
Greenville.

Vice President at Large  
MISS BELLE KEARNEY  
Flora.

Honorary Vice Presidents  
MR. THOMAS MOUNT  
Vicksburg.  
JUDGE W. A. ROANE  
Grenada.

MRS. G. W. COX  
Columbus.

Corresponding Secretary  
MRS. LILY WILKINSON THOMPSON  
Crystal Springs.

Recording Secretary  
MRS. ELLA O. BIGGS  
Crystal Springs.

Treasurer  
MRS. MABEL PUGH  
Yazoo City.

Superintendent of Press Work  
MRS. HALA HAMMOND BUTT  
Clarksdale.

President First Congressional District  
MRS. S. FANNIE CLARK  
Shannon.

President Third Congressional District  
MRS. WALTER CLARK  
Clarksdale.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1898.

Executive Committee met in the parlors of the Greenville Inn at 10 a.m.

Convention was called to order at Skinner's Hall at 11 a.m. by the President, Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville.

Appropriate Devotional Service was led by Mrs. Lide Meriwether.

Roll Call of Officers and Superintendents by Recording Secretary, Mrs. Charlotte L. Pittman.

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting read and approved.

Committees were appointed as follows: Credentials, Mesdames Thompson and Blum; Courtesies, Miss Kearney, Mrs. Pugh; Resolutions, Mrs. Meriwether, Miss Kearney, Mrs. Ewing. The President gave her address; Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer reported; Report of Press Work given by the Superintendent, Mrs. Ella O. Biggs; Report of Superintendent of Industrial Opportunities for Women, prepared by Superintendent, Mrs. Fannie Clark, was read by State Corresponding Secretary; Report of National Convention given by Miss Belle Kearney, Mississippi's first representative in the National Convention; Report of the following Local Clubs were given: Vicksburg, Iuka, Crystal Springs and Columbus.

Moved, That the President appoint a committee to revise Constitution and By-Laws; Mesdames Thompson and Biggs were appointed. Moved, That the President act with the Committee.

Moved, That as the weather is extremely inclement, no afternoon session be held, and committees requested to devote the time to preparation of reports.

Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

EVENING 8 O'CLOCK.

In spite of bad weather a good audience assembled. Devotions were conducted by Rev. R. H. B. Gladney, of Gun-nison. An eloquent introductory address was made by Rev. Quincy Ewing, of Greenville. Mrs. Lide Meriwether made an excellent address on "The New Man." A generous collection was taken, and announcements made.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 10 A.M.

Convention was called to order and Devotional Service led by the President. Minutes of the preceding session read and approved. Report of Resolutions Committee read and adopted. Paper on "Legal Status of Women in Mississippi" prepared by Mr. Percy Bell, of Greenville, was read by Corresponding Secretary. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Bell. Moved, That a committee be appointed to arrange for the publication of a leaflet on this subject; Mrs. Thompson and Miss Kearney appointed. Reports of Greenville and Yazoo City Clubs were made. Moved, That an agent be appointed



to canvass the Convention for subscriptions to the "Woman's Journal" and the "Bulletin." Mrs. Pugh was appointed. A letter of greeting and good wishes from Mr. Thomas Mount was read. Corresponding Secretary was instructed to express the appreciation of the Association for Mr. Mount's remembrance. A letter was read from Mrs. L. Wilson Clarke, of Vicksburg, asking to be enrolled as a member of the State Association. Report of Committee on Constitution and By-Laws read and adopted.\* The selection of place for holding the next Convention was referred to Executive Committee.

President urged the necessity of a fund for expenses. After discussion the following subscriptions were made: Mrs. Somerville \$12; Miss Kearney \$12; Mrs. Pittman \$12; Mrs. Biggs \$12; Mrs. Butt \$12; Mrs. Strobbridge \$6; Mrs. Pugh \$5; Mrs. Walter Clark, of Clarksdale, \$6; Mrs. Galloway, of Memphis, \$5.

A rising vote of thanks was tendered the President for her faithful work and for the way she had arranged and conducted the Convention.

Credentials Committee reported as follows: Officers present, Mrs. Nellie N Somerville, Miss Belle Kearney, Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Mrs. Mabel Pugh, Mrs. Charlotte L. Pittman; Superintendents, Mrs. Ella O. Biggs; Delegates and Visitors, Mrs. A. Blum, Mrs. Clara Helden, Mrs. Quincy Ewing, Greenville, Mrs. H. H. Butt and Mrs. Walter Clark, Clarksdale, Mrs. Kate Kretschmar, Oxford, Mrs. Strobbridge and Rev. R. H. B. Gladney, Gunnison, Mrs. Lide Meriwether and Mrs. Lottie Galloway, Memphis. Total 16. Present and entitled to vote, 12.

The hour for the election of officers having arrived, Mrs. Meriwether was requested to conduct the election.† The officers accepted with expressions of fidelity.

The question of circulating literature was discussed. Moved to circulate sermon of Rev. T. L. Mellen on "Woman's Place Under the Gospel," as far as finances will permit.

Moved, That if possible, a leaflet favoring Woman Suffrage be secured from a representative minister of each denomination, to be printed and circulated by the Association.

President called attention to the Industrial Institute & College. Voted to send a memorial to Governor McLaurin requesting the appointment of women on the Board of Trustees and thanking him for upholding the right of girls to the best educational advantages and the right of women teachers to equal pay for equal work.

Voted to ask for time at the Mississippi Chautauqua. Convention adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

\* Constitution and By-Laws have been printed. Copies can be had on application to State Corresponding Secretary.

† List of officers published on page 2 as elected, except Recording Secretary, Mrs. Pittman, who resigned after Convention.

## WEDNESDAY 4 O'CLOCK.

An able and practicable address was delivered by Mrs. Meriwether.

Convention was called to order for business at 5 p.m.

Minutes of morning session read and approved. Moved, That the office of Honorary Vice President be created. Three Honorary Vice Presidents were elected. Unfinished business referred to Executive Committee. Adjourned at 5:30.

## EVENING 8 O'CLOCK.

A sympathetic audience assembled to attend the closing meeting of the Convention. The President announced the program and said that in spite of many difficulties the Convention had been a success. Prayer was offered by Rev. Quincy Ewing. Resolutions and list of officers was read by Mrs. Thompson. An eloquent introductory speech was made by Hon. L. Pink Smith. Miss Belle Kearney then read an able paper, "Come Let Us Reason Together."

A collection was then taken, the doxology was sung and benediction pronounced by Rev. Quincy Ewing.

Collections for the two evenings amounted to \$18.18.

## Members of State Association.

Miss Belle Kearney, Flora.  
Mrs. Annie E. Harper, Fayette.  
Mrs. C. E. Wright, Jackson.  
Mrs. S. A. Hollensbe, Canton.  
Mrs. Fannie Clark, Shannon.  
Mrs. E. D. Holt, Booneville.  
Mrs. L. Wilson Clarke, Vicksburg.  
Mrs. Georgia Carothers, Indianola.  
Mrs. S. Strobbridge, Gunnison.  
Mrs. Eva L. Nye, Vaiden.



# Report from Local Clubs.

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## VICKSBURG.

Seventeen members; dues paid for eight. Owing to the protracted absence of the president and other members, few meetings were held. The president, Mrs. Charlotte Pittman, promised that delinquent dues would be collected and forwarded to the State Treasurer.

Officers—Mrs. Charlotte Pittman, President; Mr. Thomas Mount, Vice-President.

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## IUKA.

A number of non-residents joined and left soon after. State dues paid for six members. Quarterly meetings held, which are open to the public.

Officers—Dr. Fred Alexander, President; Prof. G. T. Howerton, Vice-President; Miss Lillie Miller, Secretary; Mrs. Lulu Howerton, Treasurer; Mrs. Fannie Miller, Auditor.

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## GREENVILLE.

State dues paid for thirty members. Amount spent for local work, \$28. A reading circle has been formed, and the club is growing.

Officers—Mrs. Clara Wilczinski, President; Miss Ann T. Johnson, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. C. G. Bell, Recording Secretary; Mrs. A. Blum, Treasurer.

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## YAZOO CITY.

Thirteen members; dues paid for eight. Name adopted, "Good Government Club." Strong favorable sentiment in the community.

Officers—Mrs. R. L. Bennett, President; Mrs. C. R. Hunter, Vice-President; Mrs. Nippie Montgomery, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Carrie White, Recording Secretary; Mr. W. H. Kline, Treasurer.

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## COLUMBUS.

Thirteen members. A parlor meeting held, addressed by

Miss Kearney. Literature distributed by members of the club. Name adopted, "Good Government Club."

Officers—Mrs. B. A. Duncan, President; Mrs. G. W. Cox, Vice-President; Miss Grace A. Cox, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. B. A. Duncan, Recording Secretary; Mrs. H. R. Garner, Treasurer.

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## CRYSTAL SPRINGS.

Six members; dues paid for four.

Officers—Mrs. C. H. Thompson, President; Mrs. R. O. Biggs, Vice-President; Mrs. Frances Montgomery, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Frances Montgomery, Recording Secretary; Mr. Robert Biggs, Treasurer.

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## CLARKSDALE.

Equal Suffrage Club was organized May 7, 1898, with fifteen members.

Officers—Mrs. Hala Hammond Butt, President; Mr. James F. Grogan, Vice-President; Mrs. Walter Clark, Corresponding and Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. W. Cutrer, Treasurer.

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## FLORA.

Club organized June 3, 1898, by Miss Belle Kearney.

Col. Walter G. Kearney, President; Mr. W. B. Jones, Secretary; Mrs. Jessie Wilson, Assistant Secretary; Mrs. Tavia Childress Hester, Treasurer.



## REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Immediately after the Convention last May I communicated with all the clubs organized by Mrs. Bradford and Miss Harrison asking for reports and lists of officers and members. I sent to local clubs, members of the State Association, and to others whom we believed to be interested, copies of circular letter announcing the organization of the State Association and outlining plans for work. Copies of Constitution were sent to local clubs.

Five hundred copies of the Report of Organizing Convention were printed and widely distributed.

A report of the work in this State was sent to the National Convention in February.

On account of serious illness in the winter, much of the work which I had hoped to do was a physical impossibility. Through correspondence and from information gathered from various sources I learned that in thirty places in the State steps have been taken in the direction of that goal of justice toward which we have our faces turned today. Complete organizations exist in Iuka, Columbus, Greenville, Vicksburg, Yazoo City and Crystal Springs, aggregating a membership of one hundred.

Much of the work of organization begun under the influence of Mrs. Bradford's glowing eloquence and array of facts, and the energetic presence of Miss Harrison was never permanently effected.

In some places there are many friendly to the cause, but inactive for the lack of leadership. In other towns the leadership lacks a following. And so while our friends are almost countless, our list of club members is more limited. Many women and men whose hearts are in this work, by their own testimony, are so engrossed in other pursuits, that they can take no active part in this. To these an appeal was made for the simple payment of dues, which entitles to membership in the State Association. To this appeal we have had some valued responses.

There is another large class of sympathizers: a class of women who, while apparently indifferent if not absolutely antagonistic to the enfranchisement of their sex, are nevertheless watching the movement with interest from afar. They keep their sympathies sub rosa, and, as far as within them lies, in check. It is pleasantly prophetic to note that even these will sometimes say, Galileo like, under their breaths, "God speed the day." I love to conjecture what strides this cause shall make when this latent force shall be brought into activity and all the friends of truth and justice join hearts and hands in body as in spirit.

LILY WILKINSON THOMPSON,

## REPORT OF \*\*TREASURER\*\*

FROM

MAY 5TH, 1897

TO

MARCH 31ST, 1898.

	Receipts	Expense
Greenville Club.....	\$ 7 50.....	\$ 1 00
Iuka Club.....	1 50.....	1 00
Vicksburg Club.....	2 00.....	
Yazoo City Club.....	2 00.....	
Columbus Club.....	3 00.....	1 00
Crystal Springs Club.....	1 00.....	
Mrs. C. E. Wright.....		25
Mrs. Annie E. Harper.....	1 00.....	
Miss Belle Kearney.....	1 00.....	
Mrs. E. D. Holt.....	1 00.....	
Mrs. S. A. Hollensbe.....	1 00.....	
Mrs. Fannie Clark.....	50.....	
Collections at Convention in Greenville... ..	18 50.....	
Paid National Dues.....		8 00
Paid Printing Reports.....		7 00
Paid office expenses.....		20
Paid Mrs. Meriwether.....		15 00
Paid Other Expenses of Convention.....		3 50
Total.....	43 25.....	33 95
Balance March 31, 1898.....	9 30	

MABEL PUGH.



## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT INDUSTRIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.

Mississippi took the lead among the States in founding an Industrial College for girls, in which the trained hand may keep pace with the trained mind; for the fact that girls must be able to do something besides teach school has long been recognized. In this school girls learn Dress Making, including the cutting, fitting and making of garments, also Phonography, Telegraphy, Bookkeeping, Wood Carving, Mechanical Drawing, Free Hand Drawing, Painting in Water Colors and Oils, Crayon and Pastel. There is no tuition fee for any of these. Tools and materials are furnished by the pupil. A girl may learn any of these at the cost of board, which has averaged \$8.00 this year. Every student is required to pursue an industrial art. When desired, instrumental or vocal music may be taken in lieu of the above named industrial arts. The charges for music are \$48.00 per year.

Certificate of proficiency are conferred by the Industrial Department of the College. Every girl in the College is required to take an industrial branch, but she can study an industrial without touching the college course.

The teachers are women with salaries from \$12.00 to \$1,000, assistants \$800. Two men, the president, salary \$2,250, a proctor, salary \$1,200.

More than half the girls who have gone out from this training school have married, the others are pursuing the arts and industries acquired there.

Women are employed as postmasters and assistants with salaries the same as men. As bookkeepers with salaries one-third of those paid to men. Clerks in stores at \$12.50 to \$25.00 per month. Girls are employed for telephones, as typewriters and stenographers at \$25.00 to \$40.00; as court reporters at \$40.00 per week. Many women are employed as teachers. The State as well as individuals puts a smaller price on the work of women.

Many women in Mississippi are engaged in growing flowers for sale, principally violets and chrysanthemums, which is profitable financially, and also health giving, as they often do the work.

Then there are real farmers, and the merchants do not "carry them over" year after year, also fruit and vegetable gardeners, making a specialty of strawberries.

Women are succeeding in dairy business. They make baskets, collars for horses, and chair bottoms, and there is not a voice against it.

MRS. S. FANNIE CLARK.

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF LITERATURE AND PRESS WORK.

My work was begun soon after my appointment by our State President, Mrs. Somerville. I began by writing to Presidents of Suffrage Clubs in different parts of the State. I wrote to all the Clubs of which I had knowledge and to several friends of the cause in places where no clubs exist. My object was to get some one appointed from each club who would endeavor to gain access to her local papers and secure the publication of suffrage articles endorsed and sent out by the National Superintendent of Press Work. I distributed a good many packages of "copy" in this way. I never heard from them or from my letters. Their fate I do not know; but experience has shown me that sometimes good work is done without reports being made to the Superintendent. Before I had the work well begun the yellow fever came, which put an end to all efforts for a season. During the winter months I wrote many letters to the newspaper editors of the State, always inclosing postage for reply, asking for their views on Woman Suffrage and also for their support. To some of these I received replies, which, while uniformly kind and courteous, were with one exception, opposed. To about three-fourths of the letters no reply at all was received, but from other sources I learn that five other papers can be relied on to lend assistance.

When the report of our Organization Convention was published copies were sent to all newspapers in the State whose addresses could be obtained. Not less than 125 copies of the report were distributed in this way, receipt of which was noted in the columns of a few papers. Notices of the State Convention were sent to a number of papers and published by several.

Mention of the Convention was made in the Carroll County Democrat of Vaiden, Clarion Ledger of Jackson, Challenge of Clarksdale, Enterprise of Greenwood and in the Times-Democrat and Spirit of Greenville, and perhaps in others which I did not see. Through the influence of our Recording Secretary full notices were published in the Commercial-Appeal and Scimitar of Memphis ten days in advance of the meeting. From these results I believe that it is necessary to distribute our own literature if we wish to reach the people; yet such a canvass of the Press of the State would no doubt be productive of good if faithfully and persistently carried on.

ELLA O. BIGGS.



# ...Resolutions.

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Whereas, The Constitution of the United States says, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." Therefore, resolved,

First, That women are by the express terms of the Constitution, citizens, and as such, they have a right to exercise all the prerogatives of citizenship.

Second, That as an association organized upon the basis of equal rights for all we pledge ourselves to use every available means in our power to obtain for the women of Mississippi the right of franchise.

Third, That to effect this end an efficient organizer be employed to travel through the State to form Equal Rights Clubs, and hold business meetings to instruct members in the best methods of carrying on the work.

Fourth, In order to educate public sentiment up to the acceptance of the enfranchisement of women, it is urged that literature be freely distributed.

Fifth, That strenuous efforts be made to raise funds for the advancement of the suffrage movement and that a committee be appointed to devise ways and means.

Sixth, That a Superintendent be appointed for the Department of Legislation and Petition, and that a representative be sent to the session of the Legislature to present our claims.

Seventh, That oratorical contests be held among young people for material using the Yellow Ribbon Speaker and other Suffrage literature.

Eighth, That we co-operate heartily with the National Woman Suffrage Association, especially in their plans for holding conferences in the Southern States during the winter months.